

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 3 as follows:

--The dispersion map for a particular system may be selected, for example, by determining the configuration of the existing terrestrial fiber plant and allocating dispersion compensation only to relatively low-loss spans in the system. Dispersion may thus be allowed to accumulate over long spans (e.g., Span 1 and Span 2) but may be compensated on the occurrence of a relatively low loss span (e.g., Span n-1). For example, in a system where loss in longer spans is between about 15 to 25 dB, a relatively low-loss span would be a span exhibiting attenuation of from about 5 to 15 dB.--